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produce beneficial results in society.

Had Pope contented himself with holding up to satire the vices of the men, whom he had injured, or laughed at their foibles, it would have been well: but with indiscriminate rage he has depicted them in unmixed deformity. To serve the cause of society, he should have satirized the vices; but to serve and gratify his own malice, he has satirized the individual.

Let this not be considered an attack on his merits as a poet: these rank deservedly high. But it is only just to point to the irritability, and, we may add, the malignity of his disposition, when offended, that we may, as much as may be, rescue the characters of the satirized from the injury done them by unsparing abuse—an injury proportioned to the fame of the inflicter. It is possible to write satire, and not raise enemies. It is practicable to point the shaft against the vices of mankind, and not tip the point in gall. Cowper has done thus; and yet how highly revered is he for his amiable dispositions. Had Pope done thus, this attempt to rectify opinion concerning him had never been conceived.

WARDEN.

*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

OID ILLUSTRATED.

OVID, in his *Metamorphoses*, describes Phocis as *separating Attica* from *Bœotia*. His words are,

"Separat Aonios Actæis Phocis ab arvis."

This line embarrassed me for a long time; for it implies, that Phocis extended *between* those two countries. But all the maps of Greece I have seen, place Phocis so far to the north of Bœotia, that it could not possibly

interfere, as Ovid describes. It is somewhat remarkable, that the apparent inconsistency has not been noticed by any commentator, at least by any that I have seen.

By good fortune I have lately had access to Strabo, and he solves the difficulty very satisfactorily.

In lib. 5th, article Phocis, he says, "After Bœotia and Archomenus is Phocis; it *formerly stretched northward along Bœotia*, from sea to sea." (viz. from the Cressœan to the Eubœan sea, thus running between Bœotia and Attica.) "Phocis *now* no longer extends to the Eubœan sea."

OBA.

*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

ON MUSIC.

MUSIC is universally admitted to be one of the most elegant, pure, and sublime sciences. It is also admitted to be one of the most innocent and delightful amusements. As a science, the theory of it is simple, and easily understood; and a tolerable knowledge of it may, without much difficulty, be acquired by the meanest capacity. But in the practice, notwithstanding thousands make the attempt, few indeed prove successful: very few possess that firmness, patience, and perseverance, which is so indispensably necessary to enable them to arrive at any tolerable degree of perfection, in this ingenious and difficult art.

To those who possess taste, knowledge, and execution, the three grand requisites in this science, the practice of music must very materially contribute towards increasing their enjoyments, and adding to their stock of happiness in this life. They possess the means of gratifying their taste; indulging their natural inclination; and entertaining,